

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-15 and 17 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found at least at Figs. 1 and 2 and the corresponding disclosure in the specification. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. By this Amendment, independent claim 1 is amended responsive to the rejection. Claims 2-15 and 17 are rejected only for their dependency on independent claim 1. Therefore, claims 1-15 and 17 satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1, 3-5, 8, 10-12, 14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Hatayama et al. (JP 61-008544). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Hatayama does not teach every claimed feature of independent claim 1. Hatayama does not teach "the outer layer being the outer-most radially extending layer of the laminated tube, and the projecting portion extending radially beyond the outer-most radial dimension of the outer layer," as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that the surface layer resin 11b and relief pattern band 22 of Hatayama correspond to the claimed outer layer and projecting portions, respectively, of independent claim 1 (see Office Action, page 4). However, the surface layer resin 11b of Hatayama is not the outer-most radially extending layer of the tube disclosed in Hatayama. Rather, the surface resin layer 11c is the only feature of Hatayama that could reasonably correspond to the claimed outer layer, which is now recited as the outer-most radially extending layer of the laminated tube (see Fig. 3 of Hatayama). As shown in Fig. 3, the relief pattern band 22 of Hatayama does not extend radially beyond the outer-most radial dimension of the surface resin layer 11c — at best, the relief pattern band 22 merely extends to the edge of the surface resin layer 11c (see Fig. 3 of Hatayama). Therefore, Hatayama does not teach

"the outer layer being the outer-most radially extending layer of the laminated tube, and the projecting portion extending radially beyond the outer-most radial dimension of the outer layer," as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added).

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claim 1 is patentable over Hatayama. Claims 3-5, 8, 10-12, 14 and 17 depend from claim 1, and are patentable at least for their dependency on independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 6, 7 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hatayama; claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hatayama in view of Haefner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,940,001); claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hatayama in view of Kincaid (U.S. Patent No. 4,196,825); claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hatayama in view of Redding (U.S. Patent No. 4,943,780); and claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hatayama in view of Redmond (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0030192). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 13 and 15 depend from independent claim 1, and are patentable based on their dependency from independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicant thus respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:PTM/add

Attachment:  
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 21, 2009

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